

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

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20. (Currently Amended) Method for the removal of tissue from a body cavity, comprising

inserting into said cavity a device ~~having a mechanical element~~ for cutting and detaching said tissue, said device being motor driven,

introducing a fluid into said cavity,

discharging fluid with detached tissue along a first path, and

discharging substantially only fluid along a second path, said discharge along said second path being regulated to control pressure in said body cavity.

21. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 20, in which the pressure in said body cavity is substantially constant.

22. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 20, in which inserting the device into said cavity comprises

inserting an insertion mandrel, and

removing the insertion mandrel prior to inserting the device.

23. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 21, in which inserting the device into said cavity comprises

inserting an insertion mandrel, and

removing the insertion mandrel prior to inserting the device.

24. (Withdrawn) A surgical endoscopic cutting assembly, comprising:  
a housing assembly having fitted therein a viewing channel and including a receiving part, and  
a cutter including a cutting element, said cutter being received within said receiving part, said cutter defining a suction channel for discharging fluid and cut tissue,  
the housing assembly defining a suction channel configured and arranged for discharging substantially only fluid, said housing assembly having an opening extending through a wall of said housing assembly in a distal portion of said housing assembly and in fluid communication with said housing assembly suction channel.

25. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said housing assembly further comprises an outer insertion tube and an inner housing, said inner housing including said viewing channel and said receiving part, said housing assembly suction channel being bounded between said insertion tube and said inner housing.

26. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 25 wherein said opening extends through a wall of said insertion tube in a distal portion of said insertion tube.

27. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 26 wherein said insertion tube has a plurality of openings extending through said wall in said distal portion.

28. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 25 further comprising a coupler configured to detachably fix said insertion tube to said inner housing.

29. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said cutter extends beyond a distal end of said housing assembly.

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30. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said cutter channel has a distal end located beyond a distal end of said housing assembly.

31. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said cutter further comprises a protective tube extending around an inner member.

32. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 31 wherein said cutter channel is defined within said inner member.

33. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said housing assembly has a length of at least about 30 cm.

34. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said viewing channel includes a lens and a connector configured for connecting to a camera.

35. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said receiving part defines a fluid inlet channel bounded between said receiving part and said cutter.

36. (Withdrawn) A surgical instrument, comprising:  
a mechanical cutting implement configured to cut tissue,  
a first member coupled to the cutting implement and defining a first channel configured and arranged relative to said cutting implement for removing fluid and cut tissue from a surgical site, and  
a second member coupled to the cutting implement and defining a second channel configured and arranged relative to said cutting implement such that substantially only fluid is discharged from the surgical site through the second channel, said second member having an

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opening extending through a wall of said second member in a distal portion of said second member and in fluid communication with said second channel.

37. (Withdrawn) The assembly of claim 36 wherein said second member has a plurality of openings extending through said wall in said distal portion.

38. (Previously Presented) Method for the removal of tissue from a body cavity, comprising

inserting a device into said cavity for cutting and detaching said tissue,  
introducing a fluid into said cavity,  
discharging fluid with detached tissue along a first path, and  
discharging substantially only fluid along a second path separate from said first path, said discharge along said second path being regulated to control pressure in said body cavity.

39. (New) A method comprising:

inserting a cutter into a lumen of an endoscope through a valve of the endoscope, and  
inserting the endoscope into a distensible organ.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising introducing a fluid into the organ.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 further comprising introducing the fluid through the endoscope.

42. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising cutting tissue with the cutter.

43. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising discharging fluid and cut tissue through the cutter.

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44. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising providing a tube defining a lumen for receiving the endoscope.

45 (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising discharging fluid through the tube.

46. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the cutter is inserted after the endoscope is inserted.

47. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising controlling pressure within the distensible organ.

48. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the valve comprises a shut-off valve.

49. (New) A method comprising:  
inserting a cutter into a distensible organ through a shut-off valve of an endoscope.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising introducing a fluid into the organ.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising introducing the fluid through the endoscope.

52. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising cutting tissue with the cutter.

53. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising discharging fluid and cut tissue through the cutter.

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54. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising providing a tube defining a lumen for receiving the endoscope.

55 (New) The method of claim 54 further comprising discharging fluid through the tube.

56. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising controlling pressure within the distensible organ.

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